

**MARYLAND STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 15,, 2008
RIPKEN STADIUM
873 LONG DRIVE
ABERDEEN, MARYLAND 21001**

President Alison Asti called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. There were 27 members, 4 guests, the Executive Director, the Director of Legislative Relations and the Director of Communications in attendance.

I. MINUTES

The Board of Governors Minutes for March 18, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

II. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS

A. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

1. President Asti reported on the Section Chairs' breakfast and indicated that it was lengthy and informative which provided an opportunity for dialogue among the attendees along with a discussion of hot topics.

2. Past President Robert Gonzales and present ABA State Delegate reported that the Past Presidents' Dinner was a resounding success with 27 former presidents of the MSBA. He commented on the enthusiasm among the attendees for continued participation in the Association.

3. President Asti referred the members to the various correspondence and clippings on the Agenda. These include the New York State Bar Association letter on long term care, an article about the applicants for retiring Judge Irma Raker's seat in the Court of Appeals, the article about increasing the limitations for trial by jury, an article on the possibility of a change of name for "Masters", an article about the declining IOLTA funds, an article about the new Clerk for the Court of Appeals, Bessie M. Decker, a letter from Chief Judge Bell about the personal data questionnaires for Judicial Selections, a letter from Jerry Lurie to the Maryland Bar Foundation and a thank you ad for the 2007 Professional Course faculty.

4. President Asti discussed the MSBA nomination to the Judicial Compensations Commission. In November, 2006, the MSBA nominated Devin John Doolan for that position. This submission was apparently not acted on at that time. The MSBA has been informed that it must now submit three names to the Governor and he will select one individual from that list. President Asti solicited members of the BOG to submit additional names for consideration to the Executive Director.

4. President Asti announced the appointment of a committee to consider the MSBA

Legislative and Program policies for “hot topics” with Thomas C. Cardaro to act as the chair. The committee will meet and report to the BOG at the May, 2008 meeting.

5. A motion was passed to add two non-lawyers members to the MSBA disaster preparedness planning. The president of the Law Library Association of Maryland and the chair of the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors will be included.

6. President Asti noted the upcoming election for the MSBA delegates to the American Bar Association House of Delegates. The Honorable Pamela J. Brown, Thomas C. Cardaro, Brian M. Castro, the Honorable J. Michael Conroy, Jr., Harry S. Johnson, Alyson D. Meiselman, James P. Nolan and Nathan D. Willner have submitted applications for the four open positions to be selected by the BOG at the May, 2008 meeting.

7. President Asti appointed Robert D. Ainbinder and Keith R. Truffer to recommend to the BOG a nominee for the 2008 Anselm Sodaro Judicial Civility Award.

8. At President Asti’s suggestion, the Board voted that the Judicial Appointments Committee Co-Chairs Jerald B. Lurie and Rachel T. McGuckian will receive Distinguished Service Awards at the Annual Business Meeting.

9. President Asti reported on the meeting between the officers of the MSBA and Maryland Bar Foundation and that the meeting went well in light of earlier issues concerning a submission for money for the Rule of Law meeting. The Executive Director also emphasized the close working relationship between the MSBA and the Maryland Bar Foundation.

10. President Asti reported that she and other officers will attend the ABA Days at the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and noted the able assistance to them by 2nd District Congressman Dutch Ruppertsberger.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Membership - The Executive Director reported that the changes in the membership of the MSBA are as follows:

Resignations – 0; Dropped members – 0; Deceased members - 3

New members – 14; Reinstatements - 80

Total membership count - 22,556

The Honorable E. Stephen Derby was approved for honorary membership.

2. The Executive Director reported on the MSBA non-member recruitment effort and indicated that typically about 150 non-members join the MSBA each year as a result of 6,500 mailings to in-state non-members..

3. The Executive Director noted the request made by the State Law Library for Content Advisory Committee for an MSBA member to be part of the committee which would review program content. The Executive Director will ask the Delivery of Legal Services Section for a

suggestion of someone to serve in that capacity.

4. The Executive Director reported on the two contested board elections. Alan R.L. Bussard and Deborah Dopkin were elected from the Eighth District (Baltimore County). Suzy Eckstein, David W. Lease, John C. Monahan, Stephen H. Ring, Rebecca Ann Strandberg and Floyd “Ron” Willis, III, were elected from the Sixth District (Montgomery County). The Executive Director is going to look into having online voting for future contested elections in light of the tremendous time and expense that is required for this process even though not all MSBA members have email addresses.

5. The Executive Director shared with the Board the history of income taxation in the United States and received thundering applause in light of the coincidence of the meeting taking place on April 15th.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Secretary Cardaro reported on the change in the Judicial Appointments Committee policy on interviewing judicial candidates. The new policy is that the committee does not re-interview a candidate for the same judicial position for two years. If the candidate applies for a different judicial position then that candidate is interviewed for the position without regard to when the previous interview took place. It was noted that this change in policy should be placed in the handbook.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Kudel presented the following financial report for the MSBA as of March 31, 2008:

Total dues income year to date:	\$2,671,156.20
Total income year to date:	\$3,630,552.45
Total expenses year to date:	\$2,657,121.93
Total unexpended budgeted funds:	\$ 973,430.54

E. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

President-Elect Howard circulated an issue of the “Advocate”, the newsletter of the Baltimore County Bar Association, which had a group photo of many MSBA past presidents.

III. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

THE LAWS COMMITTEE: Michael J. Baxter, Chair of the Committee, and Richard A. Montgomery, III, Director of Legislative Relations, presented information about the conclusion of the legislative session and the repeal of the Client Protection Fund statute that had been passed at the special session of the Legislature in November, 2007. He noted that the Tax Section was very helpful in the repeal of the tax on computer services, that efforts to raise the jurisdictional amount in District Court will continue and that legislation was averted that would have regulated certain credit collection practices that would have impacted law firms. A round of applause was given in recognition of the efforts of the Committee this past year.

THE CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Harriett E. Cooperman, Chair of the Committee, and Brent Burry, MICPEL Executive Director, reported on upcoming legal education programs; that they participated in the Long Range Planning Committee; and that a survey is being created to gauge the attitudes towards CLE. They also noted that CLE is available online, by web casts, pod casts, DVDs as well as live presentations. Brent Burry will attend the National Conference on Pattern Jury Instructions and the Administrative Office of the Courts has ordered copies of the recently published discovery book for all Maryland judges. Brent Burry announced that George W. Shadoan, chair for the civil pattern jury instructions subcommittee, will be relinquishing that position after many years serving in that role.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS - None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Justin Browne, a student at the University Of Maryland School Of Law, presented a request to set up a Military Law Section. After discussion and consideration, the President authorized an organizing committee to be formed for this purpose. The Executive Director noted that the goal to achieve prior to forming a section was to have 100 members.

VIII. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

President Asti announced that a special guest had been arranged to appear at the dinner at Ripken Stadium. Billy Ripken later entertained the BOG and guests with his stories of baseball and life.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leadership Academy Program "Beyond the Bars" is set for May 20, 2008; the Maryland Partners for Justice Conference will take place on June 4, 2008 at the Baltimore Convention Center; and the Young Lawyers Section and the Pro Bono Resource Center is hosting a Wii Tournament & Happy Hour on May 28, 2008 at the Sly Fox Pub in Locust Point.

X. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas D. Murphy, Assistant Secretary